



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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Commissioner

February 6, 2009

TO: County Superintendents
Chief School Administrators
School Business Administrators

FROM: Bernard E. Piaia, Jr.
Director, Office of School Facilities

SUBJECT: **Grant Program for School Facilities Projects for Regular Operating Districts:
Notification of Application Submission Extension for Second Allocation**

The Department of Education is extending the deadline for the submission of school facilities project applications for the second ROD grant funding allocation program until **12 noon on Friday, April 17, 2009**. This extension is in anticipation of the potential availability of federal economic stimulus money targeted to school construction and will allow more time for school districts to submit school facilities projects that missed the original deadline for submission to the Department. Districts will receive notification of grant approval by the end of June 2009 in order to be ready for a September 2009, or later, referendum if applicable. Districts should be aware that there will not be another allocation of state funds until 2010. With the uncertainty of how federal funding will be distributed and the required timelines, we strongly recommend that districts submit their project applications by April 17 in order to be considered for federal funding.

Each school district should be aware that the White House and Congress are working on a major economic stimulus package that may provide significant funds for specific school facilities projects. The Department encourages all school districts to visit the National Clearinghouse for Educational Facilities' web site at <http://www.ncef.org/school-modernization> to review current information available regarding the potential economic stimulus legislation and

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to begin to consider additional school facilities projects the district can advance to take advantage of this potential federal funding.

No action is required if a school district has already submitted a school facilities project application for the second ROD grant funding allocation program. A school district seeking to advance school facilities projects not already submitted in Allocation Two must follow the procedures detailed on the Office of School Facilities web site under the ROD Grant Program Information page at <http://www.nj.gov/education/facilities/projectapplication/rod/>.

The Department will provide additional information as it becomes available regarding the potential federal economic stimulus package. Please contact the Department's Office of School Facilities at (609) 984-2738 or email questions to project_app@doe.state.nj.us, if you need additional information.